

What Is Claimed is:

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1. A method for submitting electronic wagers on races that are to be run to computer equipment over a communications network using an interactive wagering application that is implemented using in-home user equipment and at least one wireless portable computing device with a display that is in wireless communications with the in-home user equipment, comprising:

providing a user at the wireless portable computing device with on-screen options on the display of the wireless portable computing device that allow the user to create a wager for a given race to be run; and

allowing the user to wirelessly transmit the wager from the wireless portable computing device to the in-home user equipment over a wireless communications path when it is desired to submit the wager for processing; and

transmitting the wager from the in-home user equipment to the computer equipment over the communications network for processing.

2. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the race is a horse race, the method further comprising allowing the user to use the wireless portable computing device to select a horse for the wager.

3. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to use the wireless portable computing device to select a racetrack for the wager.

4. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to use the wireless portable computing device to select a race for the wager.

5. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to use the wireless portable computing device to select a wager type for the wager.

6. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to use the wireless portable computing device to select a wager amount for the wager.

7. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the computer equipment is part of a transaction processing and subscription management system, the method further comprising processing the wager with the transaction processing and subscription management system once the wager has been placed.

8. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the race is a horse race and wherein an account is maintained for the user at a transaction processing and subscription management system, the method further comprising processing the wager once the wager has been placed and crediting the account when the wager is successful.

9. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment includes user television equipment.

10. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment includes a set-top box and wherein transmitting the wager from the in-home user equipment to the computer equipment over the communications network for processing comprises transmitting the wager from the set-top box to the computer equipment over the communications network for processing.

11. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment includes user computer equipment.

12. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment includes a personal computer and wherein transmitting the wager from the in-home user equipment to the computer equipment over the communications network for processing comprises transmitting the wager from the personal computer to the computer equipment over the communications network for processing.

13. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer, the method further comprising using the handheld computer to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the in-home user equipment.

14. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer and the in-home user equipment is a set-top box, the method further comprising using the handheld computer to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the set-top box.

15. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer and the in-home computing device is a personal computer, the method further comprising using the handheld computer to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the personal computer.

16. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer, the method further comprising using the handheld computer to wirelessly receive race results from the in-home user equipment.

17. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer and the in-home user equipment is a set-top box, the method further comprising using the handheld computer to wirelessly receive race results from the set-top box.

18. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer and the in-home computing device is a personal computer, the method further comprising using the

handheld computer to wirelessly receive race results from the personal computer.

19. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book, the method further comprising using the electronic book to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the in-home user equipment.

20. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book and the in-home user equipment is a set-top box, the method further comprising using the electronic book to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the set-top box.

21. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book and the in-home computing device is a personal computer, the method further comprising using the electronic book to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the personal computer.

22. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book, the method further comprising using the electronic book to wirelessly receive racing results from the in-home user equipment.

23. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book and the in-home user equipment is a set-top box,

the method further comprising using the electronic book to wirelessly receive racing results from the set-top box.

24. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book and the in-home computing device is a personal computer, the method further comprising using the electronic book to wirelessly receive racing results from the personal computer.

25. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet, the method further comprising using the web tablet to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the in-home user equipment.

26. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet and the in-home user equipment is a set-top box, the method further comprising using the web tablet to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the set-top box.

27. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet and the in-home computing device is a personal computer, the method further comprising using the web tablet to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the personal computer.

28. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet, the method further comprising using the web tablet to wirelessly receive racing results from the in-home user equipment.

29. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet and the in-home user equipment is a set-top box, the method further comprising using the web tablet to wirelessly receive racing results from the set-top box.

30. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet and the in-home computing device is a personal computer, the method further comprising using the web tablet to wirelessly receive racing results from the personal computer.

31. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising allowing multiple users to access the interactive wagering application using a plurality of the wireless portable computing devices.

32. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment communicates wirelessly with a plurality of wireless portable computing devices, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of wireless portable computing devices to each use a respective one of the plurality of wireless portable computing devices to place an independent wager through the in-home user equipment.

33. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box that communicates wirelessly with a plurality of wireless portable computing devices, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of wireless portable computing devices to each place an independent wager through the set-top box.

34. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer that communicates wirelessly with a plurality of wireless portable computing devices, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of wireless portable computing devices to each place an independent wager through the personal computer.

35. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment communicates wirelessly with a plurality of handheld computers, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of handheld computers to each place an independent wager through the in-home user equipment.

36. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box that communicates wirelessly with a plurality of handheld computers, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the handheld computers to each place an independent wager through the set-top box.

37. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer that



communicates wirelessly with a plurality of handheld computers, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of handheld computers to each place an independent wager through the personal computer.

38. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment communicates wirelessly with a plurality of web tablets, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of web tablets to each place an independent wager through the in-home user equipment.

39. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box that communicates wirelessly with a plurality of web tablets, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of web tablets to each place an independent wager through the set-top box.

40. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer that communicates wirelessly with a plurality of web tablets, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of web tablets to each place an independent wager through the personal computer.

41. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment communicates wirelessly with a plurality of electronic books, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of electronic

books to each place an independent wager through the in-home user equipment.

42. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box that communicates wirelessly with a plurality of electronic books, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of electronic books to each place an independent wager through the set-top box.

43. The method defined in claim 1, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer that communicates wirelessly with a plurality of electronic books, the method comprising allowing multiple users at the plurality of electronic books to each place an independent wager through the personal computer.

Sub. a5 7 44. An interactive wagering system that provides a user with an opportunity to submit electronic wagers on races that are to be run to computer equipment over a communications network using an interactive wagering application, comprising:  
in-home user equipment; and  
at least one wireless portable computing device with a display that is in wireless communication with the in-home user equipment, wherein the in-home user equipment and the wireless portable computing device are configured to:  
provide the user with on-screen options on the display of the wireless portable computing device that allow the user to create a wager for a given race to be run; and

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allow the user to wirelessly  
transmit the wager from the wireless portable computing  
device to the in-home user equipment over a wireless  
communications path when it is desired to submit the  
wager for processing; and

transmit the wager from the in-home  
user equipment to the computer equipment over the  
communications network for processing.

45. The system defined in claim 44 wherein  
the race is a horse race and wherein the in-home user  
equipment and the wireless portable computing device  
are further configured to allow the user to use the  
wireless portable computing device to select a horse  
for the wager.

46. The system defined in claim 44 wherein  
the in-home user equipment and the wireless portable  
computing device are further configured to provide the  
user with an opportunity to use the wireless portable  
computing device to select a racetrack for the wager.

47. The system defined in claim 44 wherein  
the in-home user equipment and the wireless portable  
computing device are further configured to provide the  
user with an opportunity to use the wireless portable  
computing device to select a race for the wager.

48. The system defined in claim 44 wherein  
the in-home user equipment and the wireless portable  
computing device are further configured to provide the

user with an opportunity to use the wireless portable computing device to select a wager type for the wager.

49. The system defined in claim 44 wherein the in-home user equipment and the wireless portable computing device are further configured to provide the user with an opportunity to use the wireless portable computing device to select a wager amount for the wager.

50. The system defined in claim 44 wherein the computer equipment is part of a transaction processing and subscription management system and wherein the transaction processing and subscription management system is configured to process the wager once the wager has been placed.

51. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the race is a horse race and wherein an account is maintained for the user at a transaction processing and subscription management system and wherein the transaction processing and subscription management system is configured to process the wager once the wager has been placed and is configured to credit the account when the wager is successful.

52. The system defined in claim 44 wherein the in-home user equipment includes user television equipment.

53. The system defined in claim 44 wherein the in-home user equipment includes a set-top box

configured to transmit the wager to the computer equipment over the communications network for processing.

54. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment includes user computer equipment.

55. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment includes a personal computer that is configured to transmit the wager to the computer equipment over the communications network for processing.

56. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer configured to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the in-home user equipment.

57. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box and the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer configured to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the set-top box.

58. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer and the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer configured to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the personal computer.

59. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer configured to wirelessly receive race results from the in-home user equipment.

60. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box and the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer configured to wirelessly receive race results from the set-top box.

61. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer and the wireless portable computing device is a handheld computer configured to wirelessly receive race results from the personal computer.

62. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book configured to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the in-home user equipment.

63. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box and the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book configured to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the set-top box.

64. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer and the wireless portable computing device is an electronic

book configured to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the personal computer.

65. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book configured to wirelessly receive racing results from the in-home user equipment.

66. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box and the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book configured to wirelessly receive racing results from the set-top box.

67. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer and the wireless portable computing device is an electronic book configured to wirelessly receive racing results from the personal computer.

68. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet configured to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the in-home user equipment.

69. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box and the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet configured to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the set-top box.

70. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer and the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet configured to wirelessly receive handicapping information from the personal computer.

71. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet configured to receive racing results from the in-home user equipment.

72. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home equipment is a set-top box and the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet configured to wirelessly receive racing results from the set-top box.

73. The system defined in claim 44, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer and the wireless portable computing device is a web tablet configured to wirelessly receive racing results from the personal computer.

74. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of the wireless portable computing devices that are configured to allow multiple users to access the interactive wagering application.

75. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of wireless portable devices with which the in-home user equipment communicates wirelessly, wherein the plurality of wireless portable computing devices are configured to allow multiple



users to each use a respective one of the portable computing devices to place an independent wager through the in-home user equipment.

76. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of wireless portable computing devices, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box that communicates wirelessly with the plurality of wireless portable computing devices and wherein the plurality of wireless portable computing devices are configured to allow multiple users to each place an independent wager through the set-top box.

77. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of wireless portable computing devices, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer that communicates wirelessly with the plurality of wireless portable computing devices and wherein the plurality of wireless portable computing devices are configured to allow multiple users to each place an independent wager through the personal computer.

78. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of handheld computers with which the in-home user equipment communicates wirelessly, wherein the plurality of handheld computers are configured to allow multiple users at the plurality of handheld computers to each place an independent wager through the in-home user equipment.

79. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of handheld computers, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box that communicates wirelessly with the plurality of handheld computers and wherein the plurality of handheld computers are configured to allow multiple users at the handheld computers to each place an independent wager through the set-top box.

80. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of handheld computers, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer that communicates wirelessly with the plurality of handheld computers and wherein the plurality of handheld computers are configured to allow multiple users to each place an independent wager through the personal computer.

81. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of web tablets, wherein the in-home user equipment communicates wirelessly with the plurality of web tablets and wherein the plurality of web tablets are configured to allow multiple users to each place an independent wager through the in-home user equipment.

82. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of web tablets, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box that communicates wirelessly with the plurality of web tablets and wherein the plurality of web tablets are configured to

allow multiple users to each place an independent wager through the set-top box.

83. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of web tablets, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer that communicates wirelessly with the plurality of web tablets and wherein the plurality of web tablets are configured to allow multiple users to each place an independent wager through the personal computer.

84. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of electronic books, wherein the in-home user equipment communicates wirelessly with the plurality of electronic books and wherein the electronic books are configured to allow multiple users to each place an independent wager through the in-home user equipment.

85. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of electronic books, wherein the in-home user equipment is a set-top box that communicates wirelessly with the plurality of electronic books and wherein the plurality of electronic books are configured to allow multiple users to each place an independent wager through the set-top box.

86. The system defined in claim 44 further comprising a plurality of electronic books, wherein the in-home user equipment is a personal computer that communicates wirelessly with the plurality of

electronic books and wherein the plurality of electronic books are configured to allow multiple users to each place an independent wager through the personal computer.

87. A method for using wireless application protocol (WAP) communications to wirelessly submit electronic wagers on races that are to be run to computer equipment using an interactive wagering application that is implemented using wireless user equipment with a display, comprising:

providing a user at the wireless user equipment with on-screen options on the display of the wireless user equipment that allow the user to create a wager for a given race to be run;

allowing the user to wirelessly transmit the wager from the wireless user equipment to a communications network over a wireless communications path using the wireless application protocol (WAP) when it is desired to submit the wager for processing; and

receiving the wager at the computer equipment over the communications network for processing.

88. An interactive wagering system that provides a user with an opportunity to use wireless application protocol (WAP) communications to wirelessly submit electronic wagers on races that are to be run using an interactive wagering application, comprising:

wireless user equipment having a display, wherein the wireless user equipment is configured to provide the user with on-screen options

on the display that allow the user to create a wager for a given race to be run; and

computer equipment to which the wagers are submitted over a communications network, wherein the wireless user equipment is configured to allow the user to wirelessly transmit the wager from the wireless user equipment to the communications network over a wireless communications path using the wireless application protocol (WAP) when it is desired to submit the wager for processing and wherein the computer equipment receives the wager over the communications network for processing.

89. A method for wirelessly submitting electronic wagers on races that are to be run to computer equipment using an interactive wagering application that is implemented using wireless user equipment with a display, comprising:

providing a user at the wireless user equipment with on-screen options on the display of the wireless user equipment that allow the user to create a wager for a given race to be run;

allowing the user to transmit the wager from the wireless user equipment to a communications network via communications equipment at a racetrack that communicates wirelessly with the wireless user equipment when it is desired to submit the wager for processing; and

receiving the wager at the computer equipment from the communications equipment at the racetrack over the communications network for processing.

90. An interactive wagering system that provides a user with an opportunity to wirelessly submit electronic wagers on races that are to be run using an interactive wagering application, comprising:

wireless user equipment having a display, wherein the wireless user equipment is configured to provide the user with on-screen options on the display that allow the user to create a wager for a given race to be run;

computer equipment to which the wagers are submitted over a communications network; and

wireless communications equipment at a track with which the wireless user equipment wirelessly communicates, wherein the wireless user equipment and wireless communications equipment are configured to allow the user to transmit the wager from the wireless user equipment to the communications network via the wireless communications equipment when it is desired to submit the wager for processing and wherein the computer equipment receives the wager over the communications network for processing.

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